

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06143 090215Z

67

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 AGR-05 L-02 /085 W
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R 090101Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0006

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: FUNGICIDES

REF: TOKYO 6989

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONS

1. IN MEETINGS DISCUSSED REFTTEL (MAY 6), LEARNED THAT JAPAN'S CITRUS GROWERS AND OR MAF MAY OPPOSE MHW APPPROVAL OF TBZ AND OPP. CONSEQUENTLY, AGATT AND ASST HAVE PAID VISITS TO KEY MAF AND GROWER REPS AS FOLLOWS:

2. MET WITH YAMADA, DIRECTOR, INTL DIV, MAF, MAY 7. EXPRESSED OUR HOPE THAT IF AND WHEN MHW ASKED MAF FOR THEIR OPINION RE APPROVAL OPP AND TBZ THAT MAF WOULD BE AT LEAST NEUTRAL IF NOT IN FAVOR AS HE HAD INDICATED EARLIER THEY WOULD BE. EXPLAINED THAT OUR CONCERN STEMS PARTLY FROM FACT THAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM RELIABLE SOURCES (FYI: DR MIYAZAWA, MHW) THAT ALTHOUGH MHW WAS PREPARED TO INCREASE SO2 TOLERANCE LEVEL IN DEHYDRATED POTATOES, THEY RECEIVED STRONG OPPOSITION FROM MAF IN WRITING REPEAT IN WRITING AND HAVE THEREFORE ABANDONED, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, THEIR PLANS TO INCREASE THIS TOLERANCE LEVEL. YANADA SUGGESTED

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 06143 090215Z

WE VISIT DIR GEN MATSUMATO, AG PROD BUREAU, MAF. SAID HEWOULD

CHECK BUT DIDN'T BELIEVE MAF WOULD ISSUE WRITTEN STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO INCREASING SO2 LEVEL IN POTATOES.

3. MET MR. T. SAMUKAWA, PRES, TOKYO SEIKA CO (MAY 7), LARGEST FRUIT WHOLESALER IN JAPAN, HEADQUARTERS AT KANDA MKT. HAD GOOD DISCUSSION ON EVERY FACIT OF MATTER. HE VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF GETTINGOPP AND TBZ APPROVED. SAYS HE'S CONFIDENT GOJ QUOTE WILL LOSE THIS BATTLE UNQUOTE BECAUSE ALL OTHER IMPORTANT TRADING NATIONS HAVE APPROVED THEM. HE WONDERED IF OUR GOVT COULD FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH MIKANS COMING INTO U.S. TO HAVE LEVERAGE AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED. SAID HE'D BE GLAD TO GIVE QUIET PASSIVE SUPPORT, BUT SINCE OVER 90 PERCENT THEIR BUSINESS IS DEPENDENT ON DOMESTIC GROWERS, MUST BE CAREFUL. (FYI: SAMUKASA STATED TO AGATT AT RECENT RECEPTION THAT HE MUST OPENLY OPPOSE LIBERALIZATION OF FRESH CHERRY IMPORTS DUE TO GROWER NJESSURE, BUT HE'D BE LARGEST IMPORTER IF WE UNSUCCESSFUL IN GETTING CHERRIES IN.)

4. MT MR. M. GOTO, EXEC V.P. , MICHIEENREN (JAPAN FRUIT GROWERS ASSOC) AND MR. Y. OHISHI, MANAGING DIR, SAME, ALSO ON MAY 7. THEY ANXIOUS GET PROBLEM SOLVED. OHISHI SAID APPROVAL OPP AND TBZ WOULD HELP NOT HURT JAPAN'S GROWERS, AND THAT NICHIEENREN UNOFFICIALLY AND QUIETLY HOPING WE WIN. OFFICIALLY THEY TAKING NEUTRAL STAND. ADMITTED THAT PART OF THEIR GROWERS (PARTICULARLY KIRINO OF EHIME PREFECTURAL COOP) WERE STRONGLY OPPOSING APPROVAL OPP ND TBZ AND THIS ON PURELY ECONOMICAL POLITICAL GROUNDS.

5. MET DIR GEN MATSUMOTO MAY 8. KITANO, DIR FRUIT AND FLOWER DIV, ALSO PRESENT. (FYI: KITANO SCHEDULED BE IN WASHDC MAY 19-23 TO ATTEND CODEX MEETINGS. RUMORED THAT SOMEONE FROM MIURA DIV, MHW, WILL ALSO ATTEND.) SPENT OVER ONE HOUR WITH THEM. MATSUMOTO WELL AWARE OF SITUATION ALTHOUGH PRETENDED TO BE POORLY INFORMED AT FIRST. CLAIMED HE COULD NOT REMEMBER ANY WRITTEN OPPOSITION FROM MAF RE SO2 LEVEL IN POTATOES AND DOUBTED SUCH DOCUMENT COULD BE ISSUED BY MAF. WOULD NEITHER AND DOUBTED SUCH DOCUMENT COULD BE ISSUED BY MAF. WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THAT SUCH OPPOSITION HAD BEEN GIVEN VERBALLY, BUT WE GOT CLEAR INDICATION THEY HAD OPPOSED IN SOME FROM. AGATT REQUESTED MATSUMOTO USE HIS POWER AND INFLUENCE TO BALANCE FORCES AND IF HE CANNOT SUPPORT APPROVAL OPP ND TBZ HE AT LEAST REMUSN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 06143 090215Z

NEUTRAL. MATSUMOTO STATED MATTER IS UP TO MHW AND MHW HAS NOT SAID A WORD TO HIM ABOUT IT, BUT HE HOPED MHW WOULD SOLVE ISSUE IN A QUOTE REASONABLE UNQUOTE MANNER. WOULD NEITHER DENY NOR CONFIRM THAT A PORTION OF GROWERS STRONGLY OPPOSE APPROVAL.

6. DIR MIURA, MHW, HAS NOT INVITED US BACK SINCE MAY 6 MEETING AS HE SUGGESTED HE WOULD. WILL SEEK CONTACT HIM AGAIN SOON RE

PLANS FOR DISPOSAL REJECTED FRUIT.

7. TRADE RUMORS INDICATE SUNKIST'S SK19 (ALREADY UNLOADED AND STORED IN BONDED WAREHOUSE) HAS BEEN ENTIRELY REJECTED AND MAY BE RETURNED TO U.S. ALSO HEARD TODAY THAT PRICE OF LEMONS IF AVAILABLE IS NOW AS HIGH AS YEN 30,000 PER CARTON, AND THAT IMPERIAL HOTEL ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL EMPLOYEES TO PICK UP LEMONS EVEN IF JUST ONE OR TWO WHEREVER POSSIBLE GOING TO AND FROM WORK AND BRING TO HOTEL.
HODGSON

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